



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 86

TO: Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

DATE: September 9, 2013 **FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 86 Month Ending August 2013

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

All permits and/or permission to conduct sediment sampling activities as outlined within the EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Phase 2 Sediment Study have been received including the Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Government of Canada, the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT). At the time of writing, the CCT had verbally confirmed with EPA that the Colville Business Council had approved the CCT permit.

TAI continued to evaluate elements of EPA's soil level of effort paper in the preparation of a draft soils QAPP. Consistent with recent discussions, TAI is working towards submitting a draft soils QAPP by September 12, 2013.

TAI is in receipt of the June 14, 2013 letter from EPA with comments on the Draft Assessment of Sediment Toxicity to White Sturgeon Data Summary Report and are reviewing and evaluating the comments.

On July 2, 2013 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) transmitted to EPA, a response to review comments and their revised report entitled "Acute and Chronic Sensitivity of White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) to Cadmium, Copper, Lead, or Zinc in Water-Only Laboratory Exposures" (USGS, 2013). TAI provided responses to EPA on August 29, 2013.

TAI met with EPA and the Citizens for Clean Columbia (CCC) on August 21, 2013 to discuss the CCC's request that we re-analyze archived sediment collected from beaches sampled in 2011 to verify that results based on estimated means are comparable to results based on measurements of sediment sieved to $< 250 \mu\text{m}$. It was agreed that TAI would direct the chemistry laboratory to re-analyze archived samples once Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) supporting reanalysis are finalized.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.